

Today's News - Wednesday, August 24, 2011

- AECOM wins Rio gold for 2016 Olympic Park (lotsa pix) + So too, it seems, have Wilkinson Eyre, DG Architecture, and Pujol Barcelona Architects (not a lot of detail here).
- Where is Douglas Cardinal when you need him: a very impressive shortlist (and lotsa pix) for the Royal Alberta Museum leaves many underwhelmed: "Surely Alberta can do better than bland for its major museum."
- King x 2: he has some serious reservations about "parking lot" plans for (large!) spectator yachts during the America's Cup run in San Francisco: "it never hurts to look a gift horse in the mouth. And the open water along Rincon Park is not a cavity that needs to be filled."
- He does give thumbs-up to SOM's "retooling of public spaces" for a 1983 high-rise that "will change the tone from ceremonial to approachable."
- Bullivant cheers Hadid's Riverside Museum in Glasgow as "genuinely embracing its context, past, present and future."
- LaBarre offers an eyeful of the soon-to-open Clyfford Still Museum façade that perfectly matches the "prickly old geez...It's as close as architecture will ever get to abstract expressionism."
- Russell on the need for a new vision - hopefully something "breathtakingly audacious" - in tackling Mississippi River flood control: a competition to redesign the delta just might be the ticket.
- Labine sees "new hope in architectural criticism" with Kimmelman taking the reins at the NYT: readers "will soon be exposed to a broader, more humane view of what constitutes excellence in architecture" (i.e. less focus on starchitects).
- U.K.'s Traditional Architects Group to sit down with Design Council to discuss CABE "bias" against traditional design (Finch will not be at the table).
- Gifford loses \$100M LEED lawsuit against USGBC.
- Indian architect Sthapati dreams of turning his Vaastu Vedic Research Foundation into a real university.
- LeBlanc pays tribute to Canada's first city architect, and considers "the best window into the soul of Hamilton's most important Modernist architect."
- Winners and finalists named in the Victor J. Papanek Social Design Awards 2011: Design for the Real World Redux.
- A very longgg shortlist for the Emirates Glass Leaf Awards 2011.
- Call for entries: 2012 Interiors Awards + AIAS/Kawneer 2011 Student Competition: Create a Crisis-ready Stadium, Arena or Civic Center.

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AECOM Wins International Competition for Master Plan of Rio 2016 Olympic Park: In the legacy that the project will leave to the city, the highlights were environmental preservation and the viability of maintaining and preserving the lagoon. [images] - ArchDaily

Aecom and Wilkinson Eyre have won a competition to work as masterplanners for the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics: The team also includes DG Architecture, Spanish practice Pujol Barcelona Architects... - BD/Building Design (UK)

Utterly underwhelming: first impression of designs for new downtown Royal Alberta Museum: Surely Alberta can do better than bland for its major museum...Is it too late to bring Douglas Cardinal in on the project? + Why aren't top architects doing their best work...? No risk, no glory: RAM project looks like it was designed by accountants, lawyers, not top architects. -- Diamond & Schmitt Architects/HIP Architects/Haley Sharpe Design; Laing O'Rourke/BG Group Architects/Richard Meier & Partners/Solomon & Bauer; Dialog/Lundholm Associates Architects; Moriyama & Teshima/Architecture/Arndt Tkalcic Bengert/Maki & Associates/Museum Planning Partners [images, links]- Edmonton Journal (Canada)

America's Cup's yacht plan threatens our wide-open bay views: ...Embarcadero's widest stretch of open water would be turned into a parking lot for two dozen spectator yachts...The rich and famous would have access to this watery perch...for the months...it never hurts to look a gift horse in the mouth. And the open water along Rincon Park is not a cavity that needs to be filled. By John King [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

Green design is good for business, not politics: Such initiatives as energy conservation or "green" design aren't socialist plots, they're bottom-line smart...the retooling of public spaces at 50 Fremont, a 42-story high-rise from 1983...will change the tone from ceremonial to approachable...Pomp counts for less than ease of passage. By John King -- Craig Hartman/Skidmore Owings & Merrill (SOM) [images]- San Francisco Chronicle

Riverside Museum. Scotland's Museums of Transport and Travel in Glasgow: ...overall the design, with its crafted public space, is a well judged balance between hermetic and porous spatial expression, creating a museum...genuinely embracing its context, past, present and future. By Lucy Bullivant -- Zaha Hadid; Gross.Max [images]- The Plan Magazine (Italy)

First Look: Butch And Beautiful, The Clyfford Still Museum Nears Opening: ...the place is a beaut (in a butch, AbEx toughie kinda' way)...Still was a prickly old geez...And the museum proves it...It's as close as architecture will ever get to abstract expressionism. By Suzanne LaBarre -- Brad Cloepfil/Allied Works Architecture [images]- Fast Company

Army Corps Mississippi Flood Failures Demand New Vision: ...more people are daring to say that the river defenses need to be redesigned from top to bottom. Is the Corps up to the task? ...The future some envision is breathtakingly audacious...a competition that would invite teams of experts to redesign the delta so that it reconciles the needs of the environment, flood control, and navigation. By James S. Russell- Bloomberg News

New Hope for Architectural Criticism: The announcement that Michael Kimmelman is taking over as architecture critic for the New York Times carries with it the hope that the Times' global audience will soon be exposed to a broader, more humane view of what constitutes excellence in architecture...Not everyone shares my enthusiasm... By Clem Labine -- Herbert Muschamp; Nicolai Ourosoff; Alexandra Lange- Traditional Building Magazine / Period Homes

TAG chair to discuss Cabe 'bias' with Design Council: Meeting follows Traditional Architects Group anger over Paul Finch's Olympic comments...a bid to sort out worries that the design watchdog is biased against traditional designs.- BD/Building Design (UK)

Henry Gifford's \$100M LEED Lawsuit Dismissed "With Prejudice": The USGBC is cracking open the biodynamic local bubbly... -- Rick Fedrizzi [links]- TreeHugger.com

An architect's dream: V. Ganapati Sthapati wants to turn his Vaastu Vedic Research Foundation into a University..."I want to make it a Viswa Karma University...temple architecture, housing architecture, town

planning, sculpture, painting and the art of making bronzes will be taught there. It will be a regular college"- The Hindu (India)

Stanley Roscoe, the man who forged a steel town's look: ...served as Canada's first city architect...one can do no better than a stroll around Roscoe's Main Street West masterpiece...There is respect for materials, and an artist's manipulation of them. It is, in a word, breathtaking ... and the best window into the soul of Hamilton's most important Modernist architect. By Dave LeBlanc [images]- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Victor J. Papanek Social Design Awards 2011: Design for the Real World Redux: four winners and 13 finalists in inaugural competition supporting environmentally sustainable and socially responsible design..will be featured in forthcoming Exhibitions at the University of Applied Arts Vienna (November 2011) and the Museum of Arts and Design and/or the Austrian Cultural Forum New York. -- Yves Behar/Fuseproject; Wendy E. Brawer; Mitchell Joachim/Planetary One + Terreform One; Lars Vedeler; etc. [images]- Core77

9th Annual Emirates Glass Leaf Awards 2011 shortlists: ...a celebration honouring the top architects from across the globe designing innovative building solutions; winners to be announced September 16 in London- LEAF Awards

Call for entries: 2012 Interiors Awards: 33rd annual awards program honors interior design projects in 15 categories; deadline: September 23- Contract magazine

Call for entries: AIAS/Kawneer 2011 Student Competition Challenges Students of Architecture and Design to Create a Crisis-ready Stadium, Arena or Civic Center; cash prizes; can count towards core hours of the Intern Development Program (IDP); registration deadline: October 1- American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS)

Book Review: "One Million Acres & No Zoning": Lars Lerup's Outrageous Encomium to Houston Instructs and Infuriates: This isn't some dryly academic reconfiguration of trendy urban planning theory. I recommend it for the intrepid. By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow

One-on-One: Architecture of Emotion and Place: Interview with Bartholomew Voorsanger, FAIA, MAIBC: The architect's aspiration to create expressive, dynamic spaces is absolutely the key to his work. By Vladimir Belogolovsky [images]- ArchNewsNow



Exhibition: Ai Weiwei: Circle of Animals/Zodiac Heads, LACMA, Los Angeles

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